

Exhibit A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: TETHER AND BITFINEX
CRYPTO ASSET LITIGATION

19 Civ. 9236 (KPF)

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT
PLAN AND SCHEDULING
ORDER

This Civil Case Management Plan (the “Plan”) is submitted by the parties in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)(3).

1. All parties **do not consent** to conducting all further proceedings before a United States Magistrate Judge, including motions and trial. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). The parties are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences.
2. Settlement discussions **have not** taken place.
3. The parties **have** conferred pursuant to Fed. R.Civ. P. 26(f).
4. Amended pleadings may not be filed and additional parties may not be joined except with leave of the Court. Any motion to amend or to join additional parties shall be filed within **30** days from the date of this Order.
5. Initial disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) shall be completed no later than **28 days** from the date of this Order.
6. Discovery
 - a. The parties are to conduct discovery in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.
 - b. The parties are to discuss, if and as appropriate, provisions for the disclosure, discovery, or preservation of electronically stored information (ESI). Any agreement reached between the parties concerning ESI is to be filed within 30 days from the date of this Order.
 - c. The Court has already entered an Order governing the designation of materials as confidential in the above-captioned matter. ECF No. 151.
 - d. The parties shall abide by the protocols set forth in paragraph 7 (“Procedure for Clawback of Privileged Discovery Material”) of the Stipulation and Order for the Production and Exchange of Confidential Materials (ECF No. 151) with respect to asserting claims of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material after such information is produced.

- e. The production of documents shall be made on a rolling basis, with production substantially completed no later than **9 months from the date of this Order.**
- f. Parties shall produce a final privilege log corresponding to document productions within **17 months from the date of this Order.**
- g. Fact discovery shall be substantially completed no later than **14 months from the date of this Order.**
- h. All fact discovery shall be completed no later than **18 months from the date of this Order.**
- i. Class certification shall be governed by the following deadlines:
 - i. Plaintiffs motion for class certification and supporting expert reports are due **19 months from the date of this Order.**
 - ii. Defendants' deadline to depose Plaintiffs' class certification experts is **21 months from the date of this Order.**
 - iii. Defendants' opposition to class certification and supporting expert reports are due **22 months from the date of this Order.**
 - iv. Plaintiffs' deadline to depose Defendants' class certification experts is **24 months from the date of this Order.**
 - v. Plaintiffs' reply in support of class certification is due **25 months from the date of this Order.**
- j. Other than experts for class certification, the parties shall serve opening expert reports, no later than **2 months after any order certifying a class.** Parties shall serve any expert reports in opposition to opening reports (limited to responding to the opening reports) no later than **4 months after any order certifying a class.** Parties shall serve any expert reports in reply to opposition reports (limited to responding to the rebuttal reports) no later than **6 months after any order certifying a class**
- k. All expert discovery, including reports, production of underlying documents, and depositions, shall be completed no later than **9 months after any order certifying a class.**
- l. The parties will meet and confer regarding a stipulation to govern treatment of expert materials.

7. Interim Discovery Deadlines

- a. Initial requests for production of documents shall be served by **30 days from the date of this Order.**
- b. Interrogatories pursuant to Rule 33.3(a) of the Local Civil Rules of the Southern District of New York shall be served by **30 days from the date of this Order.** No Rule 33.3(a) interrogatories need to be served with respect to disclosures automatically required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a).
- c. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, contention interrogatories pursuant to Rule 33.3(c) of the Local Civil Rules of the Southern District of New York must be served no later than 30 days before the close of discovery. No other interrogatories are permitted except upon prior express permission of the Court.

- d. Depositions of fact witnesses shall be completed by **18 months from the date of this Order.**
 - i. Absent an agreement between the parties or an order from the Court, depositions are not to be held until all parties have responded to initial requests for document production.
 - ii. The parties will meet and confer regarding a stipulation to govern depositions.
 - iii. There is no priority in deposition by reason of a party's status as a plaintiff or a defendant.
 - e. Requests to admit shall be served by **19 months from the date of this Order.**
 - f. Any of the deadlines in paragraphs 7(a) through 7(f) may be extended by the written consent of all parties without application to the Court, provided that all fact discovery is completed by the date set forth in paragraph 6(g).
- 8. All motions and applications shall be governed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Rules of United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the Court's Individual Rules of Practice in Civil Cases ("Individual Rules"), which are available at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/hon-katherine-polk-failla>.
 - 9. In the case of discovery disputes, parties should follow Local Civil Rule 37.2 with the following modifications. Any party wishing to raise a discovery dispute with the Court must first confer in good faith with the opposing party, in person or by telephone, in an effort to resolve the dispute. If this meet-and-confer process does not resolve the dispute, the party may submit a letter to the Court, no longer than three pages, explaining the nature of the dispute and requesting an informal conference. Such a letter must include a representation that the meet-and-confer process occurred and was unsuccessful. If the opposing party wishes to respond to the letter, it must submit a responsive letter, not to exceed three pages, within three business days after the request is received. Counsel should be prepared to discuss with the Court the matters raised by such letters, as the Court will seek to resolve discovery disputes quickly, by order, by conference, or by telephone.
 - 10. All counsel must meet in person for at least one hour to discuss settlement within 14 days following the close of fact discovery.
 - 11. Before filing a summary judgment motion, the moving party must file a pre-motion submission pursuant to Section 4(A) of the Court's Individual Rules. The submission shall be filed within 30 days of the close of expert discovery, or within 30 days of a decision on any motion for class certification, whichever is later; or earlier for good cause.
 - 12. Similarly, any motion to exclude the testimony of experts pursuant to Rules 702-705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence and the *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), line of cases, is to be filed within 120 days of the close of expert discovery, or within 120 days of a decision on any motion for class certification, or within 120 days of a decision on any dispositive motion, whichever is later. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, opposition to any such motion is to be filed two weeks after the motion is served on the opposing party, and a reply, if any, is to be filed one week after service of any opposition.

13. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the parties shall submit to the Court for its approval a Joint Pretrial Order prepared in accordance with the Court's Individual Rules and Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) within 120 days of the close of expert discovery, or within 120 days of a decision on any motion for class certification, or within 120 days of a decision on any dispositive motion, whichever is latest. The parties shall also follow Paragraph 7 of the Court's Individual Rules, which paragraph identifies submissions that must be made at or before the time of the Joint Pretrial Order, including any motions *in limine*.
14. Joint requests to charge, joint proposed verdict forms, and joint proposed *voir dire* questions shall be filed on or before the Joint Pretrial Order due date in accordance with the Court's Individual Rules. Jury instructions may not be submitted after the Joint Pretrial Order due date, unless they meet the standard of Fed. R. Civ. P. 51(a)(2)(A).
15. Unless the Court orders otherwise for good cause shown, the parties shall be ready for trial 60 days after the Joint Pretrial Order is filed.
16. This case is to be tried to a jury.
17. Counsel for the parties have conferred and the present best estimate of the length of trial is six weeks.

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Pro se

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE COURT IF APPLICABLE:

_____ shall file a motion for _____ no later than _____.
Any opposition shall be filed by _____ and any reply shall be filed by _____.
One courtesy copy of all motion papers, marked as such, shall be mailed or hand delivered to the Court by the movant at the time the reply is served. All courtesy copies should be three-holepunched, tabbed, and placed in binders as specified in the Court's Individual Rules.

The next pretrial conference is scheduled for _____ at _____ in Courtroom 618 of the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, New York 10007.

By Thursday of the week prior to that conference, the parties shall submit via e-mail (Failla_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov) a joint letter, not to exceed three pages, regarding the status of the case. The letter should include the following information in separate paragraphs:

- (1) A statement of all existing deadlines, due dates, and/or cut-off dates;
- (2) A brief description of any outstanding motions;
- (3) A brief description of the status of discovery and of any additional discovery that needs to be completed;
- (4) A statement describing the status of any settlement discussions and whether the parties would like a settlement conference;
- (5) A statement of the anticipated length of trial and whether the case is to be tried to a jury;
- (6) A statement of whether the parties anticipate filing motions for summary judgment, including the basis of any such motion; and
- (7) Any other issue that the parties would like to address at the pretrial conference or any information that the parties believe may assist the Court in advancing the case to settlement or trial.

This Order may not be modified or the dates herein extended, except by further Order of this Court for good cause shown. Unless the Court orders otherwise, parties engaged in settlement negotiations must proceed on parallel tracks, pursuing settlement and conducting discovery simultaneously. Parties should not assume that they will receive an extension of an existing deadline if settlement negotiations fail. Any application to modify or extend the dates herein (except as provided in paragraph 8(f)) shall be made in a written application in accordance with the Court's Individual Rules and must be made no fewer than two business days prior to the expiration of the date sought to be extended.

SO ORDERED.

KATHERINE POLK FAILLA
United States District Judge

Dated: _____, 2021
New York, New York